

# MTF Formulary Management for Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker (DHP-CCB)

Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center

**Uniform Formulary Decision:** The Director of TMA has approved the recommendations from the August DoD P&T Committee meeting regarding formulary status of dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker on the Uniform Formulary (UF) and Basic Core Formulary (BCF) as outlined below. Conversion from non-formulary agents to a BCF or uniform formulary drug or establishment of medical necessity may commence 13 October 2005 and must be completed by 15 Mar 2006.

Uniform Formulary (UF) Dihydropyridine CCBs***		Non-Formulary (NF) DHP CCBs
DHP-CCB on BCF MTFs <u>must</u> have on formulary	DHP-CCB not on BCF MTFs <u>may</u> have on formulary	DHP-CCB <u>must not</u> have on formulary
Nifedipine extended release (generic)	Felodipine (generic) Nisoldipine (Sular)	Amlodipine (Norvasc) Isradipine immediate release (DynaCirc) Isradipine controlled release (DynaCirc CR) Nicardipine immediate release (Cardene, generic) Nicardipine sustained release (Cardene SR)

\*\*\*Nifedipine immediate release and nimodipine (Nimotop) were also added to the Uniform Formulary, however these medications are not considered to be therapeutic alternatives to the other CCBs, as they are not used for cardiovascular conditions.

- Efficacy trials in hypertension have shown that one CCB works just as well as another, when titrated to effect.
- In the JNC VII guidelines for hypertension (HTN), the only compelling indications for a CCB include: ischemic heart disease (although beta blockers are usually recommended first-line here) or diabetes (ACE inhibitors, ARBs, beta blockers, and thiazides are usually recommended first line here).
- Amlodipine, isradipine and nicardipine were designated NF on the UF. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that any one CCB is superior to another for HTN and non-angiographically documented coronary artery disease. Patients not meeting medical necessity criteria must be switched to a formulary agent.
- Non-formulary (NF) designated dihydropyridine CCBs are the least cost-effective agents in the class. Reserve NF agents for use in patients who cannot be treated with any of the UF designated dihydropyridine CCBs. MTFs are required to use the medical necessity criteria established by the DoD P&T Committee available on the TRICARE Pharmacy website: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary.cfm>. A Microsoft Word version of the TMOP/TRRx Medical Necessity form adaptable for MTF use is available on RxNET.

Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker Price Comparison at MTF	
Drug & Dosage Form	Weighted cost per day (June 2005) <sup>ab</sup>
<b>Basic Core Formulary DHP-CCB</b>	
Nifedipine extended release	\$0.42
<b>Other Uniform Formulary DHP-CCB available for inclusion on MTF formularies</b>	
Felodipine	\$0.41
Nisoldipine	\$0.34
<b>Non-formulary DHP-CCB</b>	
Amlodipine	\$0.89
Isradipine immediate release Isradipine controlled release	\$0.53
Nicardipine immediate release Nicardipine controlled release	\$1.27

<sup>a</sup> Post-decision prices; actual price may vary slightly due to MTF-specific Prime Vendor discounts and/or fees

<sup>b</sup> MTFs are prohibited from entering into any incentive pricing agreements in any form with PPI pharmaceutical manufacturers to receive additional discounts.

## References

- For the full clinical review of the DHP-CCBs and for discussion about UF decisions, log onto RxNET (the PEC's webforum) [www.dodrxnet.org](http://www.dodrxnet.org) (under "File Library" forum, "DoD P&T Library" folder).
- Current/future drug classes under review by the DoD P&T Committee: [www.pec.ha.osd.mil/PT\\_Committee.htm](http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil/PT_Committee.htm)
- TRICARE website for information on the Uniform Formulary: [www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy)
- TRICARE Formulary Search Tool: [www.tricareformularysearch.org](http://www.tricareformularysearch.org)

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